

PATENT
Reply under 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
Group 3676

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A substantially watertight grommet for use in securing a pin to a first object, the grommet comprising:
 - a head having an undersurface from which extends an elongate body, the body extending from the head in generally perpendicular relationship thereto, the head and the body defining therethrough a bore that is constructed and arranged to receive the pin, said head and said body being a single molded piece;
 - at least one retention structure coupled to the body, the retention structure being constructed and arranged with respect to the head of the grommet such that when the grommet is received within a bore formed in the first object, the head and the retention structure will engage opposing surfaces of the first object so as to securely retain the grommet within the bore formed therethrough;
 - a sealing mechanism coupled to the head of the grommet that is constructed and arranged with a first portion thereof forming a substantially water-tight seal between an undersurface of the head and a surface of the first object and a second portion thereof forming a substantially water-tight seal between the pin and the bore defined by the head and body of the grommet; and,
 - a catchment mechanism comprising a first portion formed into a shaft of the pin and a second portion formed into the body of the grommet, the first and second portions of the catchment mechanism being constructed and arranged to secure the pin within the grommet.
2. (original) The watertight grommet of claim 1 wherein a lower portion of the sealing mechanism extends below an undersurface of the head of the grommet.
3. (original) The watertight grommet of claim 2 wherein the lower portion of the sealing mechanism forms at least one circumferential seal.